



North American
**Colonial Waterbird
Conservation Plan**

What is being developed?

A conservation plan for colonial waterbirds throughout North America, including Mexico and the Caribbean.



What defines a colonial waterbird?



For the purposes of the NACWCP, colonial waterbirds depend on water to complete a portion of their life cycle, nest colonially, and include the seabirds, terns, gulls, and wading birds.

Why do we need a NACWCP?

- Colonial waterbirds are widespread, visible, and cherished components of the landscape - having spiritual and symbolic value for many North Americans;
- The long-term stability of colonial



waterbirds is threatened by continued loss and alteration of aquatic habitats;

More reasons...



- Colonial waterbirds are biological indicators of the wetlands they depend on, including inland wetlands, coastal estuaries, and the ocean;
- Because they are indicators, their protection and management can be useful in conserving the landscape..as habitats are altered, changes in colonial waterbird populations indicate environmental changes.

Goal

Maintaining healthy populations, distributions, and habitats of colonial-nesting waterbirds in North America, throughout their breeding, migratory, and wintering ranges for future generations of North Americans.



Objectives

- Develop a conservation plan for colonial waterbirds throughout North America;
- Integrate this plan with other bird conservation planning initiatives, including Partners in Flight, Shorebirds, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.



Who is the plan being developed for?

- Land and resource management agencies and others engaged in conservation action;
- Agencies, NGOs and local groups concerned with population conservation;
- public;
- research community.



Who will develop the NACWCP?

- Two committees: A Steering Committee and Advisory Committee;
- Steering committee - engages the process and writes the plan;
- Advisory Committee - provides the information, reviews drafts, and provides comments.



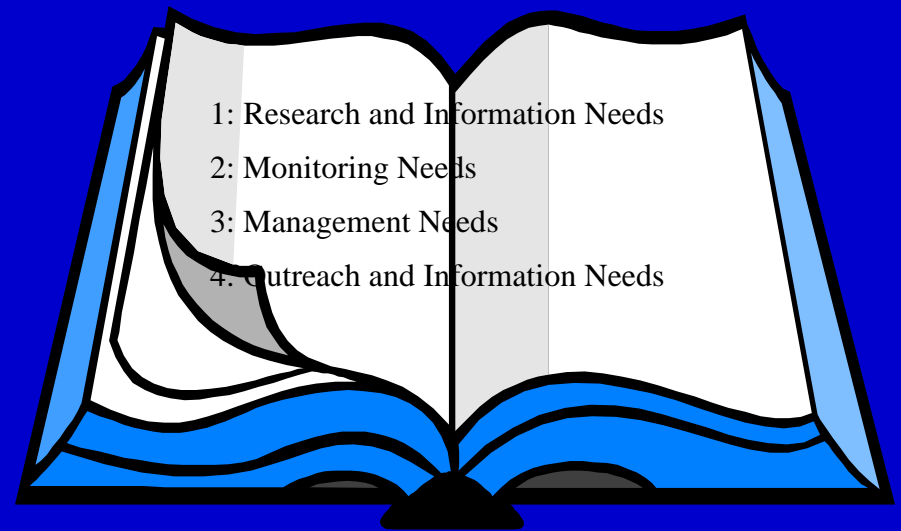
Photo by Marcus Martin



North American
Colonial Waterbird
Conservation Plan

Who will develop the NACWCP?

- In addition to the Advisory and Steering committees, four subcommittees will develop the research and information needs, monitoring needs, management needs, and outreach and information needs portions of the Plan, respectively.



How will the NACWCP be developed?

- Using a process designed to incorporate a wide variety of interest groups, including local, state, provincial, and federal agencies, non-governmental agencies, business-related sectors, researchers, educators, and policy makers.



North American
Colonial Waterbird
Conservation Plan

NACWCP Planning Process

- Regional workshops will be used to gather interested individuals
- Workshops will focus on the four planning modules - research, monitoring, management, and outreach and education
- Workshops will include participants actually managing colonial waterbirds



How does the NACWCP fit into other bird conservation planning efforts?

- To avoid duplication of effort, the NACWCP will be designed to be integrated into other bird conservation planning efforts - especially during plan implementation;
- The plan will support FWS eco-regional management plans, habitat joint ventures, and the needs of refuges, parks, and sanctuaries.



Steps already taken to integrate the NACWCP

- Coordinated meetings between NACWCP, NAWMP, Partners in Flight, and Shorebird Plan to develop common bird conservation planning regions;
- Incorporation of the NACWCP into the North American Bird Conservation Planning Initiative, including Partners in Flight, NAWMP, and Shorebird Plans.

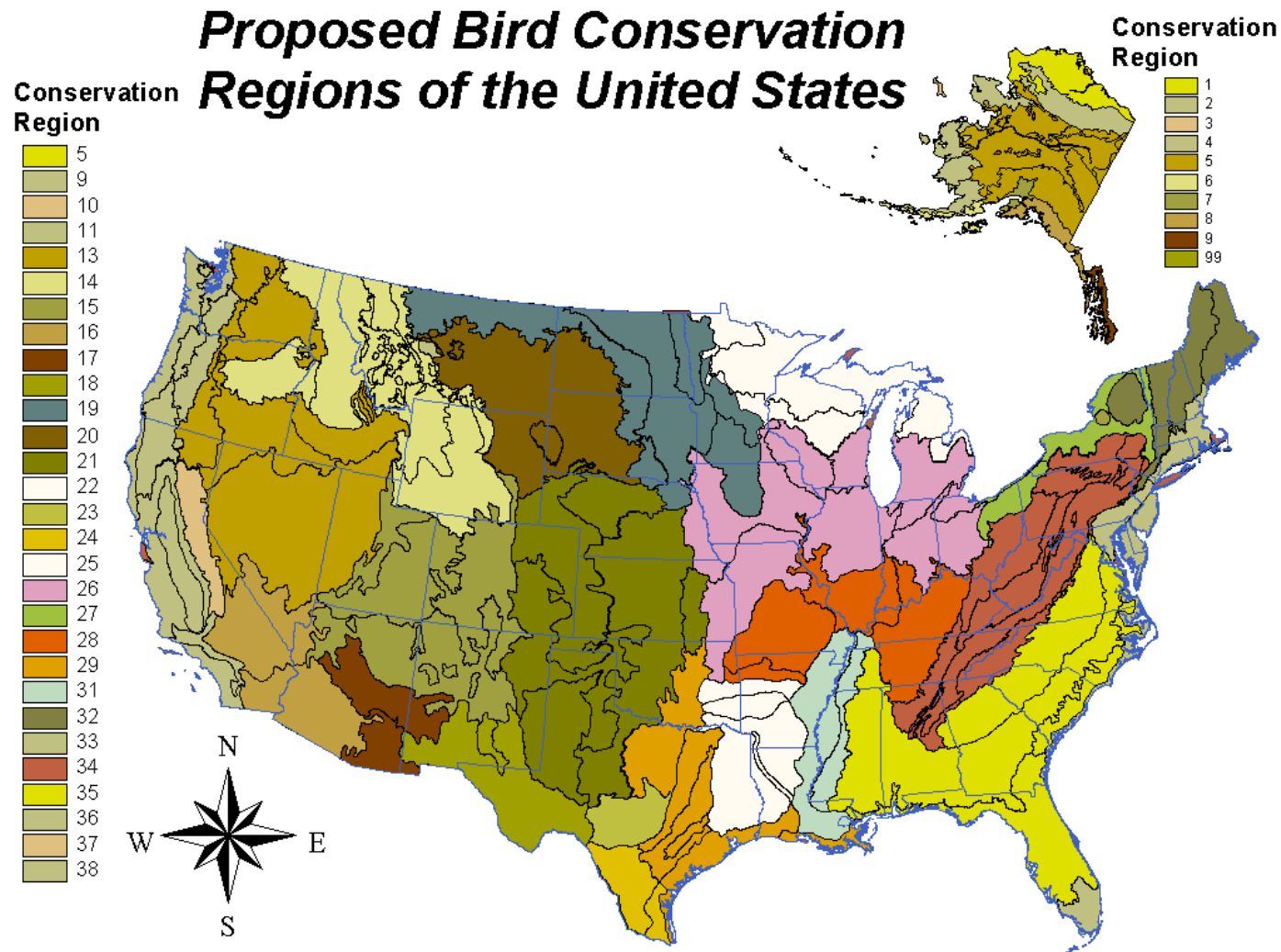


Photo by Marcis Martin



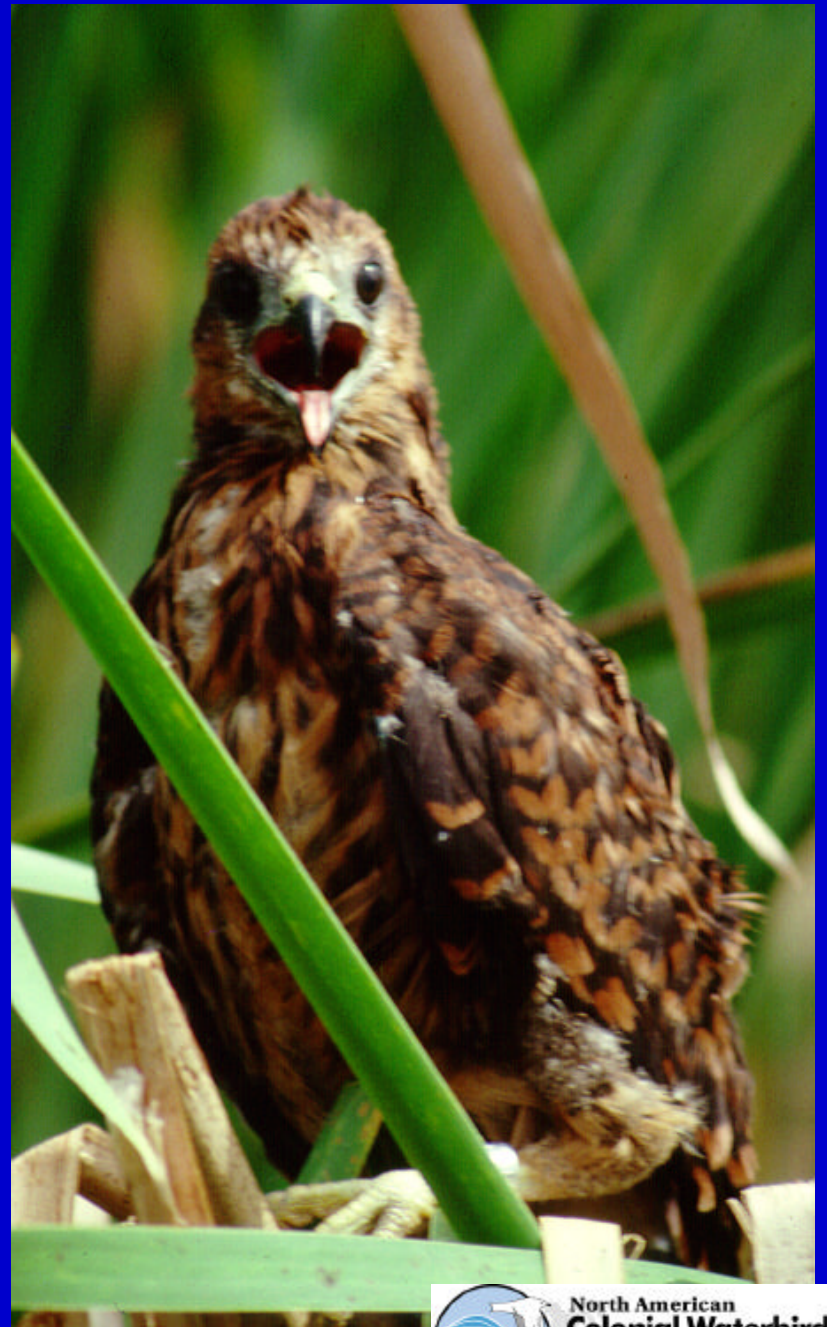
North American
Colonial Waterbird
Conservation Plan

Proposed Bird Conservation Regions



When will the plan be completed?

- The Plan is slated for completion December 2000. Implementation of the plan is hoped to begin at this time.



What are some of the expected products?

- Manual of colonial waterbird monitoring survey methodologies;
- Outreach materials for schools, interest groups, etc.
- Training materials for colony site managers, colony watch groups,...
- Monitoring network and data center;
- Interactive management site on the Internet.



Photo by J.A. Spendlow